

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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No. 175

MORE ON BOSTON EARLY STORIES AND THEIR PUBLISHERS

by Rev. Roland D. Sawyer

This year, 1946, is a centenary year of the publishing of adventure and love stories in a large way in the city of Boston.

Jan. 2, 1846, F. Gleason, corner of Court and Tremont Streets (the old Museum bldg.) started publication of THE FLAG OF THE UNION. He gave his shop the magnificent name of "Gleason's Publishing Hall."

Of his writers the most famous were J. H. Ingraham, Ann S. Stephens, Harry Hazel, Lieut. Murray, Fred Hunter, Harry Halyard, et al.

Sept. 1946, Justin Jones at 1½ Water St., started publication of THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER. His writers included several who wrote for Gleason. In 1851 he sold to W. R. Hayden of 154 Washington St., who had been his editor.

Hayden brought in Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., as chief writer, and also began to write stories himself. J. H. Robinson also became one of his writers.

He soon sold the publication of the paper to T. H. Peabody of the same firm, and he gave his time entirely to writing stories.

Peabody attained fame by publishing the most popular best seller of the time in the shape of ELIZA WHARTON by A Lady of Massachusetts. George I. King began writing stories of the Revolution for the paper, which became very popular.

The first Saturday in November appeared the paper THE AMERICAN UNION published by R. B. Fitts and Co., 37 Court Sq.

This paper was a little more literary than the others, carried columns of general news, "The Family Circle," "The Farmer and Mechanic," etc. Several of the writers for other Boston papers wrote stories for him, viz Cobb, Robinson, Lieut. Murray, etc. and one new writer who became well-known, George L. Aiken.

This paper was later taken over by Elliott, Thomas and Talbot, at 63 Congress St., who re-printed the stories as THE RICHMOND NOVELS, in which series are found several of Ned Buntline's stories.

NED BUNTLINE

—Originator of the "Dime Novel" Thrillers, himself ran away to sea, served in three wars, started two riots, was jailed twice and actually hanged once; also organized the political party of "Know-Nothings" was married four times, and was in fifteen or more shooting scrapes, and carried twenty bullets in his body, then turned to writing sensational fiction, 1823-1886.

A man who lived as he wrote and wrote as he lived was Edward Zane Carroll Judson, better known as Ned Buntline. He was one of the first of the dime novelists, he invented and perfected that technique twelve years before it was popularized by the firm of Beadle & Adams. Born in New York State in 1823, Ned Buntline ran away to sea when a youngster and became a cabin boy. At fifteen he won a midshipman's commission in the U. S. Navy for heroism displayed when a boat capsized in the East River on Feb. 10, 1838. Four years later he resigned to serve in the Seminole Indian War.

Singlehanded, Buntline once captured two murderers and was rewarded \$600. In 1846 at Nashville, Tenn., he was arranged for the shooting of one Robert Porterfield, with whose wife Buntline was alleged to have flirted. Porterfield's brother opened fire on him in the court room; after a wild cross town chase he was seized, jailed, then lynched. His neck was broken, but he lived; some one cut him down and smuggled him back to jail. He was not indicted. Buntline later served in the Mexican War; was jailed one year for starting a riot in New York's Astor Place Theatre; started an election riot in St. Louis in 1852, but escaped by jumping bail. Buntline it was who nicknamed William F. Cody, Buffalo Bill and made a national hero of him in his dime novels. After many more eventful escapades, Buntline settled in his Adirondack home and devoted himself to his writing. During his life he produced the equivalent of 200 volumes of Dime Novels, etc., and once wrote a 610 page book in 37 hours.

—Sent in by George Barton

"ADVENTURES OF FRANK MERRIWELL"

With Lawson Zerbe, Jean Gillespie, Harold Studer, Al Hodge. Writers:—Ruth & Gilbert Braun, Producer-Director: Joseph F. Mansfield.

WEAF-NBC, N. Y. 30 Mins.: Sat., 10 a.m.

First segment of a two-hour block of Saturday a.m. programs designed mainly for young listeners, these Frank Merriwell air stories are bound to garner plenty of adult dialers as they draw up bucketfuls of nostalgia from the well of days gone past. Stories are based on Burt L. Standish's 10c pulp classics which were so widely read 20 and 30 years ago but have a timeless appeal for kids of all sizes and ages. Dramats are aptly slotted, and if the series maintains the excellent standard set by the preem program last Saturday (5), finding a sponsor shouldn't be hard.

Script for the show doesn't depart from the traditional conceptions of the Frank Merriwell image. He's still a teetotaling, true-blue Yale man who never fails the team in a clutch. Stories have an obvious melodramatic frame, but on the opening stanza, lots

of excitement was generated.

Overall production was smooth in all departments, direction and cast blending nicely together. Sound effects were adroitly used to lend a realistic air to the football game.

Taken from VARIETY, Radio Reviews, October 9, 1946.

—Herm. Pitcher

NED BUNTLINE'S CENTENNARY

by Rev. Roland D. Sawyer

Perhaps Ned Buntline is the most celebrated of the old time Beadle writers, tho he would be hard pressed for place by Col. Prentiss Ingraham.

The earliest story by Buntline I have found, and at any rate the first that got much attention, was published in early 1847 by F. Gleason in his THE FLAG OF THE UNION. The title was THE KING OF THE SEA, a tale OF THE FEARLESS AND FREE, by Ned Buntline, late of the United States Navy.

Gleason started his paper Jan. 1846, and in the fall offered a \$100 prize for the best story submitted, and this story by Buntline got the prize. It was concluded in the number of April 3, 1846, and carries the proud head by the publisher, that this story was written expressly for THE FLAG OF THE UNION and is copyrighted.

BUFFALO BILL, MULTI-STORIED BORDER KING

by J. Edward Leithead

Part 5

Through lack of information it is not possible to name those artists who did the earlier covers for the weekly. A misfortune, indeed, since their work was excellent. One artist turned out covers in an unbroken chain from No. 184 to 264 that should rank high as Western illustrations, particularly Indian fights. Charles L. Wrenn started doing them with #268, "Buffalo Bill and Billy the Kid" (not the Lincoln County, N. M. outlaw, but an Indian). Wrenn's fine drawings, first done in pen and ink, then colored in proof, illustrated the following numbers: 268 to 280, 282, 284 to 289, 291, 294, 298 to 301, 304 to 317, 319 to 328, 331 to 339, 342, 343, 346 to 349, 351 to 353, 355, 356, 358, 359, 361 to 363, 366, 369, 371 to 374,

376, 378, 379, 381, 382, 385, 386, 389, 390, 393 to 400, 403 to 405, 408, 409, 411 to 414, 416, 417, 419 to 424, 426, 429 to 432, 434 to 442, 444 and a majority of the covers from there on to the end.

Other artists for the Stories were Marmaduke Russell, Edward Johnson, F. A. Carter and Robert Emmett Owen. Russell's drawings may be seen on #123, 141, 146, 153, 154, 157, 163, 165, 168 to 172, 174, 175, 180, 182, 290, 292, 293, 295, 296, 297, 318; Johnson's on #147, 148, 158, 159, 161, 162, 166, 167, 173, 176, 177, 181, 183, 281, 283, 302, 303, 329, 330, 340, 341, 344, 345, 350, 354, 357, 360; Carter's on #364, 365, 367, 368, 370, 373, 375, 377, 380, 383, 387, 388, 391, 392, 395, 397, 401, 402, 406, 407, 410, 415, 418, 425, 427, 428, 443, 446 and others. Owen illustrated #490, 537, 544 to 547.

The Buffalo Bill Stories ceased publication in 1912 with #591, "Buffalo Bill in the Black Hills," reprint of #137, and was succeeded by the New Buffalo Bill Weekly the following week. It was a reprint series entirely, with a few of the titles changed. #1 was "Buffalo Bill's Blind Lead," a reprint of Buffalo Bill Stories #153, same title. #2, "Buffalo Bill's Bold Work," was #154, "Buffalo Bill's River Rovers," re-titled, and so on.

In reprinting Stories in which Wild Bill had been Buffalo Bill's partner, the Weekly substituted Pawnee Bill for Hickok. And Major Lillie's name was used in the sub-titles of the stories for some time. Charles L. Wrenn did most of the early covers for this publication, and F. A. Carter many of the later ones. The Weekly was issued in the standard novel size, 8x11, for half a year or more, then was changed to a smaller size and continued thus for a total of 364 numbers. Of course, a lot of the original series were never reprinted, and in the reduced size the type was smaller, allowing space for the printing of serials in the back pages. Although so many stories had been left out, toward the end the Weekly began reprinting its own earlier numbers. When it became Western Story Magazine, a Buffalo Bill story appeared complete, with the addition of new stories not about him, in the first two or three issues. These were "Buffalo Bill After the Bandits," "Buffalo Bill's Red Trailer" and "Buffalo Bill in the Hole-in-the-Wall," #190 to 192 of the Buffalo Bill Stories.

About 1907, when the Buffalo Bill Stories probably were at the peak of popularity, Street & Smith started publishing a 15-cent series of paper-covered books known as The Far West Library. Each volume of 300 pages or more contained from one to four Buffalo Bill tales reprinted from black-and-white libraries and the colored cover weekly. A Beadle's Dime, for instance, was long enough to fill one of these books, but, because of their shorter length, it usually required four Beadle's Half Dimers to make up a volume. When reprinting stories which had originally been written for the Buffalo Bill Stories, three, as a rule, were sufficient. In fact, after the Far West Library was launched, contributors to the 5-cent weekly wrote stories in series of three, so that they could be published later as book-lengths, dealing with the same characters.

Far West Library #1 was "Buffalo Bill, the Border King." It is not Robert Russell's story of the same title in Log Cabin, which was reprinted in Far West #5, "Buffalo Bill's Comrades." Neither is it Ned Buntline's first Buffalo Bill serial. It is, however, the same tale that appeared as #1 of the Buffalo Bill Stories, though obviously not long enough for a 300-page book. Additional chapters were inserted for its publication in the Far West Library by that master of the frontier tale, W. Bert Foster, making a harmonious whole.

The Far West Library ran to 211 numbers, each with an attractive colored cover, and included all, or practically all, Buffalo Bill novels from dime and nickel libraries, including, of course, the Buffalo Bill Stories. It also reprinted some Wild Bill and White Beaver tales. "Wild Bill's Trump Card," Beadle's Dime #175, became, in Far West #19, "Buffalo Bill's Trump Card." "The Wizard Brothers" and "The One-armed Pard" originally were serials in Beadle's Weekly in 1884, later reprinted in Beadle's Dime Library. "The Wizard Brothers" reappeared in Far West Library #11, "Buffalo Bill's Death Call," with Cody added to the trio of Powell brothers, Frank, George and Bill. "The One-armed Pard" became Far West #43, "Out of the Jaws of Death," Cody taking the lead instead of White Beaver,

although the latter was in the story, also Bronco Bill Powell and One-armed Jack.

Street & Smith reprinted the 211 numbers of Far West in a similar paper-covered book series called the Buffalo Bill Border Stories. The covers were new and attractive except toward the end, when they did not seem to be executed in the old Buffalo Bill tradition. Still a third time was this book-size series printed, beginning about 1927. It was called the Great Western Library, and for 25 issues the Buffalo Bills alternated with reprints from Diamond Dick, Jr., Weekly. After #25, nothing but Buffalo Bill tales appeared, and in this last series, "Buffalo Bill, the Border King," became #40.

The colored covers of the Great Western Library were all new and exceptionally good, up to and including #118. For several numbers following they were not so artistic, though new. Soon the covers that had appeared on corresponding issues of the Buffalo Bill Border Stories were used. With #156, the Great Western ceased to exist. In the two later libraries, all the stories were attributed to the authorship of Colonel Prentiss Ingraham, though he hadn't actually written more than half of them, if that many. In the Far West Library edition, "By the author of 'Buffalo Bill'" appeared on most of the books, then the name "Howard W. Erwin" was substituted.

Here is an interesting example of how a Buffalo Bill tale written in 1872 continued to reach readers until about 1927, through various editions. The story is Ned Buntline's second Buffalo Bill serial in the New York Weekly, "Buffalo Bill's Best Shot; or, The Heart of Spotted Tail." That was its initial publication. It was reprinted as Log Cabin Library #127, and in the pocket edition of Log Cabin. Reprinted again as #2 of the Buffalo Bill Stories, slightly edited to fit the 32-page novel. And again in Buffalo Bill Stories #230, this time titled "Buffalo Bill's Kiowa Foe; or, Buckskin Sam's Red Hand." The story, though re-arranged, and with a few characters and incidents different from the original, is actually the same. For instance, Buffalo Bill's pard was one Dave Estes in the New York Weekly serial and #2 Buffalo Stories reprint.

In #230, Buckskin Sam replaces Estes, and Spotted Tail and his daughter, Dove Eye, instead of being Big Horn Sioux, as in the serial, become Pawnees. It was reprinted as #50 of the New Buffalo Bill Weekly. The full-length serial appeared in #2 of the 15-cent Far West Library under the title "Buffalo Bill's Bid for Fame." The rewritten version published as Buffalo Bill Stories #230, "Buffalo Bill's Kiowa Foe," with two other stories from that weekly, was printed again in Far West #92, "Buffalo Bill's Air Voyage." But it had suffered some cutting, and Wild Bill replaced Buckskin Sam. In the 15-cent Buffalo Bill Border Stories, "Buffalo Bill's Bid for Fame" was reprinted as #39 and "Buffalo Bill's Air Voyage" as #25. Still again, in the 15-cent Great Western Library, "Buffalo Bill's Bid for Fame" was #27 and "Buffalo Bill's Air Voyage" #20. Thus, Buntline's story of "Buffalo Bill's Best Shot" appeared no less than a dozen times in one form or another.

The Aldine Publishing Company printed English editions of Colonel Cody's adventures called New Buffalo Bill Library, Buffalo Bill 4 d. Novels and Original Buffalo Bill Library.

I wish to acknowledge valuable data regarding titles and authors of the black-and-white libraries supplied by W. C. Miller, and assistance from Ralph F. Cummings, J. P. Guinon, and Colonel Charles D. Randolph ("Buckskin Bill") in preparing lists of Buffalo Bill libraries.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Moved again, Charles D. Randolph, (Buckskin Bill), to Randolph's Rest, 2316 Jefferson Ave., Davenport, Iowa. This address is permanent. Bill says The Buffalo Bill stories published by Street & Smith of New York was the only publication devoted to the Real Adventures of Buffalo Bill.

Here's something very few novel collectors know, is that it was originally intended for Patten's name to appear on the Tip Tops as "Burr L. Standish," instead of "Burt L. Standish," and some of Street & Smith's advertising show the name as "Burr." J. P. Guinon has a reproduction of the front cover of No. 1 which the

publishers distributed through all their news agencies a couple of weeks before the first number of Tip Top appeared. It looks exactly like the regular colored cover of No. 1, same size, colors and everything, except that the author's name is shown as "Burr." It is quite a curiosity.

Just heard the sad news that one of our members has passed to the great beyond, Benjamin W. Hallett, Marstons Mills, Mass. (down on Cape Cod), died January 1947. May his soul rest in peace.

The 8 day gripe seems to have gripped old New England for a change. Everybody seems to be sick. Ye editor feels he should be in bed, instead of getting out this issue, but we want to be on time, no matter how we feel.

A series of short articles run as Candid shots in the Evening Bulletin in Phila., by Paul Jones, on the Algers, Hentys, Frank Reades, etc., the week of Jan. 20th.

Arvid Dahlstedt says Gene Autry is going to surprise us by bringing out a "New Dime Novel." Gene has arranged for 5,000,000 copies of a new Western Weekly—with Gene as the Hero—on the order of Buffalo Bill. You bet we'll be on the lookout for it Arvid.

George Flaum and wife have visited a number of members on their tour of the United States, especially from Florida to California and back. Those visited, Mr. and Mrs. Bill McCafferty, Willis E. Hurd, J. P. Guinon, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mengar, Charles Heartman and several others.

George says Ray Mengar operates the Rowe Cigarette Vending Machines and has quite a business, and has a nice novel collection.

As George knows ye editor personally, and has taken me out to dinner lots of times, every one seems to ask George what kind of a geezer I am, Ha Ha. Hope he tells 'em I'm the most rip-snortin'est galoot in seventeen counties.

George stopped in to see Joe Grantham, says he has complete sets of Wild West Weekly and Blue and Gray.

Bob Smeltzer fell on the ice a while back, and broke his ankle, but hope by the time he gets this Roundup he'll be already to walk again.

The Adventures of Frank Merriwell every Saturday at 10 a.m. seems to be getting better and better all the time.

FOR SALE

At Forty Cents Each—Wide Awake Library 432, 469, 585, 589, 590, 636, 655, 666, 676, 688, 702, 704, 705, 711, 826, 837, 909, 928, 1061, 1085, 1115, 1134, 1135, 1143, 1161, 1165, 1177, 1184, 1192, 1207, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1233, 1267, 1270, 1274, 1293, 1307. Most have a very large dealer's stamp mark on the cover. All in filing binders. Can be used for reading or to fill in until better copies are found.

At One Dollar Each: Wide Awake Library 90, 225. Good.

At Three For A Dollar—Tip-Tops 509, 514, 516, 521, 526, 581, 584, 586, 591, 593, 601, 609, 610, 611, 718. Just fair; can be used for reading or to fill in until better copies are found.

Will trade any of the following for items that I can use and then sell the balance to whoever makes the better offer. Tip-Top Weekly: 160, 173, 180, 189, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 236, 238, 239, 243, 248, 259, 382, 402, 405, 420, 421, 423, 441, 451, 452, 471, 503, 504, 510, 520, 529, 550, 587, 598, 607, 608, 632, 681, 703, 711, 724, 728, 750, 761, 786, 14. New Tip-Top 29. Most of these are nice.

I can use Jack Wrights in 139, 166, 214, 250, 254, 258, 262, 274, 278, and 282. Pluck and Luck. Any copies of the Frank Reade Weekly Magazines. Need the following Tip-Tops to replace poorer copies in my set: 315, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 325, 326, 345, 346, 347, 348.

On orders of less than five dollars, add ten percent to cover cost of packing and shipping.

GEORGE FLAUM

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27. Arvid Dahlstead, c/o Reynolds Research, Box 551, Glen Cove, L. I., N. Y.
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 144. Harry A. Weill, 600 W. 157th St., c/o Mrs. J. Muley, Apt 27, New York, N.Y.
 — Charles D. Randolph, Buckskin Bill, Randolph's Rest, 2316 Jefferson Ave., Davenport, Iowa.

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